

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM
OF SUTTER COUNTY
1333 BUTTE HOUSE ROAD
P. O. BOX 1555
YUBA CITY, CA 95992

NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XXIV, No. 3

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95992

July, 1987



Sheriff - Bert M. Ullrey

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An index and file of all the past issues of the NEWS BULLETIN may be found in the Sutter County Library, the Marysville City-County Library, and at the Community Memorial Museum. Extra copies of the Bulletin may be purchased at the Museum for \$2.00.

Presidents Message

Members and guests attending the Annual Dinner Meeting on April 17th enjoyed an excellent roast beef dinner in the comfortable and spacious Meeting Hall of Yuba City's Methodist Church. Afterwards we shared Mr. Ted Meriam's "Fascination of the History books of California". The Chico book collector filled us in on what makes for interesting and valuable books generally. Historical content, which our group values, is not necessarily of great importance in "collectors' items"-although of course it can be. The rarity of a book may make it valuable, but so can its size, its illustrations, excellent typography, and fine binding. Mr Meriam showed examples illustrating these features--a miniature book, some fine examples from the Grabhorn Press, and even one with fore-edge painting, that crafty and deceptive art which conceals an illustration or scene under the gilded edge of a book, invisible to all but the educated eye!

What a wonderful picnic celebration "MUSEUM DAY"! Plenty of food and beverages and congenial fellowship. More of these kinds of events are needed. Why can't our July meeting be a family picnic or ice cream social? Let us know your feeling. A program for the whole family could be arranged.

Plans are being made for the spring of 1986 for a guided tour of the points of interest around our Sutter Buttes. We need more information regarding places and points of interest that you may know about. Help make this outing something to be remembered.

Be seeing you on July 16, 1985 at the Museum. Watch the papers for further information regarding the program.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM NOTES

Mary Allman, Director/Curator

WANTED: A few good volunteers! The Community Memorial Museum has begun its summer recruitment for new Auxiliary members to work as volunteer receptionists and project workers. The Museum Auxiliary is a group of dedicated individuals who volunteer from 4 to 8 hours per month in service to the Museum. Jobs range from greeting Museum visitors to working on individualized research projects. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of the Museum Auxiliary, just call Mary at 674-0461.

The Community Memorial Museum regretfully accepted the recent resignations of two of its members- Madge Johnson and Constance Cary. Their valuable input at the Museum will indeed be missed. Recently appointed to the Commission are Raona Hall, from District 2, and Christine Benson, from District 3. The Museum Commission welcomes these two new members.

The Museum facilities and exhibits continue to change and improve as the summer progresses. We extend our sincerest appreciation to the Sutter County Board of Supervisors for appropriating funds to renovate the Museum's front parking lot. Recently, the Board also approved funds to improve the landscaping surrounding the parking area. Our heartfelt thanks goes to the Board of Supervisors for their continuing support of the Museum.

Inside, our exhibits are undergoing some subtle and not so subtle changes and improvements. We have included a horse-drawn plow to our agricultural display, and the parlor and bedroom have both been updated and re-arranged. Even further improvements are planned for the summer, including a revised school display, and a new exhibit honoring Sutter County's veterans.

During the months of July and August, the Museum will also feature a temporary exhibit in remembrance of the 30th anniversary of the 1955 flood. Photos, newspapers, and other memorabilia will be on display.

"Sutter County Souvenirs," the Museum's premiere television series, will be re-telecast throughout the summer on Tuesday evenings at 6pm, on Nor-Cal Cable Channel 5. Please be sure to tune in.

The Museum Commission is looking ahead to its annual Salad Luncheon and Card Party, scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 1985. Tickets will soon be available from Commission members and at the Museum.

The Museum's Gift Shop has recently received new shipments of Sutter Buttes T-Shirts, caps and notepaper. Please be sure to stop by the Museum for a one-of-a-kind gift.

LIST OF DONORS TO THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM
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Caroline Ringler

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In memory of Francis Blakeman

In memory of Annie Micheli

In memory of George Bihlman

In memory of Dorothy Wisner

In memory of Dorothy Wisner

In honor of the 40th Anniversary

of Lee & Edna DeWitt

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In memory of Lou Powell

In memory of Ruth Miller

In memory of Ruth Miller

In memory of Ruth Miller

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In memory of J. Ralph Robinson

In memory of Jewell Libby

In memory of J. Ralph Robinson

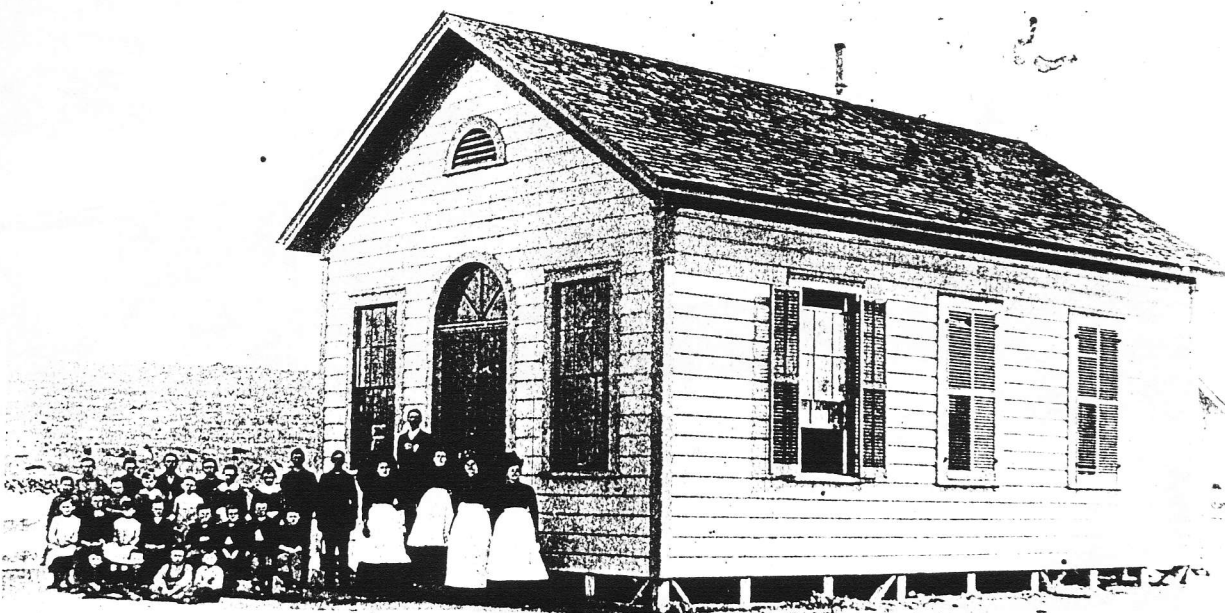
In memory of Chester Stineman

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BERT MILES ULLREY

1880 - 1961

A native of California, Bert M. Ullrey was born near Sites, Colusa County, on Christmas Day, December 25, 1880. He was the third son of Robert Miles and Lillie Allen Ullrey. His early youth was spent at Stonyford, also in Colusa County, where he attended elementary school. The family moved to West Butte, in Sutter County about 1895. Bert attended the West Butte school, where there were about 30 pupils enrolled. He graduated June 1898 at age 17. Miss Oba Algeo was his teacher.

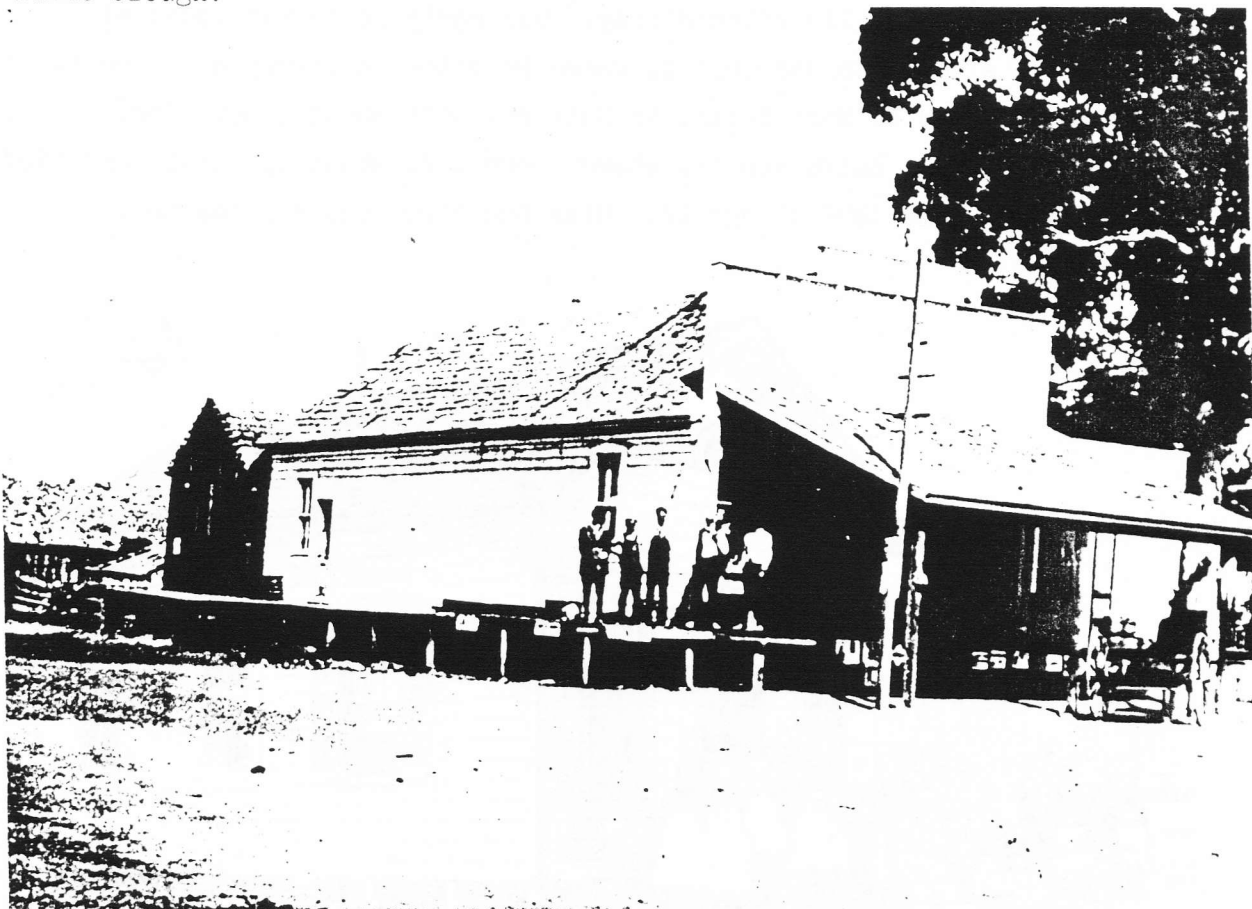


The Robert Ullreys lived on the Van Fleet, Straub and James Carroll properties. The brothers and sisters were: Charles, Clyde, Annie, Theresa, Lillie Mae and Willis. All Are deceased.

While Bert lived around West Butte the Sutter Buttes became very much a part of his life. He told of many interesting experiences he had with rattlesnakes and where to find them. The Butte Slough always overflowed and the ducks were plentiful. Bert's brothers Charles and Clyde often hunted ducks for the San Francisco market. When flood time came, which was not every year, Bert boated the U.S. Mail from Moon's Ferry on the Sacramento River to West Butte store for many days. This was before

improved levees and bridges were built. During these years some of his boyhood friends were Otis and Lawrence Hill, Oscar Rosner, Charles Chase, Melvin Conner and Lonzo Lockwood.

There was always farm work. One type you do not hear about today was cutting sugar cane. The Hoke Brothers raised sugar cane along the Butte Slough.



Bert was employed by George Straub and Sons, William A. and George F. in their store known as the Geo. W. Straub & Sons Mercantile Store, West Butte. Those years the store furnished supplies of food, hardware, household and general farm needs. The wholesaler at that time was J.R. Garrett & Company in Marysville. The farmers only paid their bills once a year when the crops were harvested and then Mr. Straub paid Garrett & Co. Later Straub had a store in Sutter City. About the turn of the century, the supplies were hauled by team and wagon from Marysville to West Butte, which was about twenty miles and took all day to accomplish the trip.

One of the educational experiences Bert had was acting as guide for the University of California geologist, Mr. Watt, to the location

of the shells in the shale on the west side of the Buttes, when he was fifteen years old. The shells were proof that at one time the Buttes were under water.

The scientific name of the species of one of the shells found, is *Drillia Ullreyana*, and it is listed in a University of California publication, "Bulletin on Geology" by Roy E. Dickerson and published May 1916. It is also named *Gastropoda, Architectonica Ullreyana*. The article states that the shell was of a feminine species. Since the shell was named in honor of Mr. Bert Ullrey who assisted Mr. Watts in finding the locality, the 'ana' was added to indicate the shell was of the feminine specie.



Another experience Bert had while living at the Van Fleet place, also known as the Brockman place, was concerning gas. Bert knew the location where he could light a match over a crack in the earth and due to gas escaping the flame would burn until it was snuffed out. He was confident that there was gas in the Buttes and the many gas wells in the area at this time prove he was right.

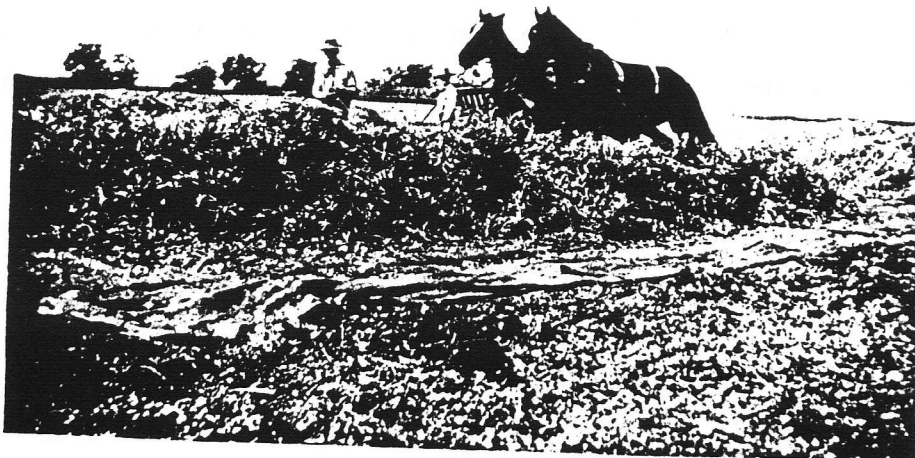
Bert M. Ullrey and Annabel Adams were married November 5, 1905 at the Boyd Ranch, the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Burwell B. Adams. The home was at the foot of North Butte, Pennington, California.

The honeymoon was by horse and buggy enroute from the east side of the Buttes to Sutter City which was their first residence. On this eventful trip the favorite horse of Mrs. Ullrey threw a shoe. The family has kept it all these years and on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary it was gilded and used as part of the decorations. Bert and Annabel celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on November 5, 1955 at the Yuba City Women's Club where they greeted many of their friends and family.

From about 1906 to 1912, Mr. Ullrey decided to try sheep raising and joined in a partnership with Geo. W. Hastings of Maxwell. They rented about 1900 acres of the Charles Madison property west of Pennington. This later became the site of construction for a missile launch center, which is now closed. The high cost of raising and the low price for selling lambs, convinced Bert to get out of the sheep raising business.

Again, Mr. William A. Straub contacted Bert to help his father at the West Butte store and rent his property at West Butte. Mr. William Straub wanted to move his family to Coalinga and establish a mercantile business with his son-in-law, John K. Ballou. This was 1913, the time of the oil and gas boom in Coalinga. This venture failed and Mr. William Straub returned to West Butte in 1915. During this time Bert freighted eggs and butter to Marysville which he traded for goods to take back to the store in West Butte. The roads were so full of potholes, dozens of eggs would be broken during the trip to Marysville.

The year 1916 found Bert Ullrey, a farmer renting the Santee place which was grain land, and some tule land near the Butte Slough, from Louis Tarke. Barley and beans were his main crop.



A large vegetable garden furnished fresh vegetables for the neighbors and also, fresh string beans, tomatoes, melons, squash, cucumbers and peppers were delivered to the grocery store at Meridian by horse and buggy. This was done early in the morning because there was no refrigeration in those days.

About 1926, Mr. Ullrey in partnership with a Mr. Jones, started the first funeral home business in Sutter County. It was located on Plumas street near where the Mosburg apartments are. This partnership was dissolved about 1929 and Mr. Ullrey worked at the Gerald Raub store on Second street.

February 14, 1930, Bert M. Ullrey announced he would be a candidate for sheriff of Sutter County at the August Primary election. He was elected to the office at the November 4, 1930 election with a total of 2,533 votes. His opponent Mr. B.B. Manford had 1,908 votes. The next day Bert and Annabel Ullrey celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary with relatives and friends at the Wilmer W. Hisson home on Tharpe road.

During the twelve years of service as Sheriff of Sutter County, 1930-1942, Bert M. Ullrey was a devoted public servant night and day. He never failed to respond to an office or telephone call. During this period of history, there was bootlegging, thievery, murders in Hindu camps and the Meek kidnapping case.

This was the time of prohibition and there were many bootleggers. One night Bert and his officers made two raids down Sutter Basin way and confiscated 19 barrels of wine, 96 gallons of whiskey and over 50 cases of beer. This they stored in Earl Huffmaster's garage. Later they dumped it at the City dump. Every drop!

The most exciting episode, was the Kidnapping of Mrs. Norma Meeks of Rio Oso. A more detailed account of this follows this article.

During his time in office, Sheriff Ullrey appointed, Pat Rogers as Undersheriff, W. H. Chism as Deputy night jailer, Mrs. Pearl Webdell as Chef and C. F. Shamberger as Deputy Sheriff. Herbert Webdell also helped sometimes at night work. During the second and third terms of office, Alva "Dick" Kimerer and Wilbert Carpenter were Deputy Sheriffs.

Bert Ullrey was happy while he served his county and also expressed proudly that during the twelve years of office he had never pulled his gun

on any victim.

On November 5, 1961 Mr. and Mrs. Bert Ullrey celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary and two weeks later he died of a heart attack while pheasant hunting with his brother. He was about one month short of being 81 years old.

* * * * *

EXCERPTS FROM NEWSPAPERS ABOUT THE MEEKS KIDNAP CASE

INDEPENDENT FARMER

September 2, 1938

HEADLINES

"RIO OSO WOMAN STOLEN"

".....two bandits bound her husband and kidnapped Mrs. W. R. Meeks from her home, Thursday, September 1st. Federal and State authorities were mobilized within an hour after Sheriff Ullrey learned of the abduction. He called upon the National Guard and the Yuba-Sutter post of the American Legion. More than 500 men were combing the surrounding counties looking for Mrs. Meeks.

"Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Hudson visited the Meeks until about 11:30pm. The men came in just after they left. Came prepared with adhesive tape to seal their lips. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meeks were bound and blindfolded with pillow cases. The men ransacked the house, then left with Mrs. Meeks in the Meeks' car; shouting they wanted \$15,000 ransom.

It took Meeks about half an hour to free himself, he then immediately notified Deputy Sheriff Robert Inglerock who set the police machinery in motion.

The stolen car was found in Marysville in front of Witt's market at 3:00am this morning. In it were found Mrs. Meek's glasses and purse. Mrs. Meek's description was given as 55, of slender build, (5' 2" and 110 lbs), wearing a navy blue chiffon flowered dress with short sleeves. She wore black shoes.

The kidnapers were described by Meeks as about 24 years of age and about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches tall. Their faces were largely covered by white handkerchiefs. Both carried revolvers.

September 6, 1938 (Tuesday)

HUNT KIDNAPPERS AFTER MRS. MEEKS' RETURN

With the safe return of Mrs. Norma Meeks, 55, wife of W. R. Meeks of Rio Oso to her home early Sunday (4th)----officers have concentrated of the apprehension of the three men who kidnapped the woman at midnight Thursday and held for \$15,000 ransom which was not paid.

An almost endless number of clues have been run down by officers and scores more are being checked. The search was spurred on by Mrs. Meeks' complete description of one of the men who acted as guard during the long hours she was held prisoner on a hillside above the Bear River about seven miles from the town of Sheridan.

Mrs. Meeks escaped from the spot at an early hour on Sunday after her captors had been absent since late Saturday afternoon, when they left her, warning, they would "blow her brains out" if she tried to get away.

Starting on a search for water she made her way to an old road on which she walked as far as the Camp Far West ranch of the California Packing Corporation, where she was picked up by Bert Foster who gave her a ride to Rio Oso.

Weak and hungry, Mrs. Meek at first showed signs of developing pneumonia but later gained strength and is now considered to have passed that danger. She recovered enough so that this afternoon she attempted to take officers over the route followed by the kidnappers as they took her into the hills. They hope to be able to locate some clues along the route.

Mrs. Meeks was given only some cream cheese and one drink of water during her captivity. Most of the time she was hidden in a bunch of poison oak.

District Attorney Loyd E. Hewitt assumed charge of the hunt for kidnappers and was 'roundly berated' by the San Francisco press and given a slap on the wrist by Marysville press for withholding news of Mrs. Meeks' return; from the time of her return at 6:30pm until 10:00am. Following her return the \$1,000 reward offered by the Supervisors, was cancelled.

While three men were involved, Mrs. Meeks only had contact with the one who guarded her. Another came to confer with her guard at some distance from where she was hidden in the bushes. Later on Saturday her guard told

her the "Boss" had ordered him to "bump her off" under threat of killing him if he did not do it. She argued with him, begging him to take her to Sheridan and release her, then go his way. Shortly after he left and did not return.

September 16, 1938

The paper reported Ronald Loudermilk, 19, suspected kidnapper of Mrs. Meeks was being questioned. Circulars had been sent out asking for the arrest of James L. Clark and Bernard O. McFarland, two other suspects.

September 20th --Paper reported that Loudermilk and Clark has been cleared.

February 17, 1939

MEEKS KIDNAP SUSPECTS CAUGHT IN EAST, QUESTIONED BY OFFICERS

Ollen Grimes, 30, and his brother Robert, 24, one time turkey raisers in Placer County were arrested in Kentucky and returned to California. Their arrest follows long, patient efforts in following a clue given the day Mrs. Meeks returned.

The Grimes brothers were arrested in Louisville, Kentucky, by FBI men as a result of an indictment in federal court at Sacramento, on charges of fleeing the State to escape federal prosecution. Indictment was returned secretly on January 9th after Deputy Sheriff Kimerer had sworn complaints charging kidnapping.

Armed with evidence, officers traced the boys to Louisville, Kentucky, where they have had irregular employment in a cigaret factory. Hewitt and Kimerer flew to Kentucky and spent several days on the case there. They talked to Robert but Ollen escaped and relatives hid him in LaFayette, Indiana. Having no search warrant, officers would not search the home and Ollen made his escape the next day.

While talking to Robert, Hewitt asked, "Why did you tell Mrs. Meeks you were afraid of the electric chair?," to which he replied, "I thought it was the law in California." After this damaging admission he refused to talk further.

Hewitt and Kimerer returned home and arranged to enlist the aid of the FBI by taking into Federal court the statute which permits the FBI to act when a person charged with a felony flees the state. The indictment was secured and on January 30th the brothers were arrested in Louisville.

The two brothers were taken before federal Judge Roche on February 16th in Sacramento. He released them on their own recognizance on charges of

being fugitives from justice. Sheriff Bert Ullrey and Deputy Kimerer were there waiting for them. "Well boys, I guess I'll have to take you to Yuba City unless you've got \$10,000 bail," said Sheriff Ullrey. "I guess we'll have to go to Yuba City then 'cause we ain't got \$10,000," one of the brothers replied.

Brought to Sutter County jail and registered, Ollen was then taken to Colusa County jail so he could not confer with Robert. The Sutter County jail is so small and antiquated, it is impossible to house two prisoners and keep them separated. The Yuba County jail was in the process of being renovated, and could not be used.

Both boys were sullen and silent when brought to the local jail and never changed expressions as newspaper photographers snapped many pictures.

Officers have come to the conclusion there is no third man. The "Boss" referred to was a subterfuge to mislead and confuse their victim.

The two brothers admitted being on probation in Placer County for selling mortgaged property. They had mortgaged their turkeys to Walter Jansen and then sold them to another person.

The Meeks kidnapping case was one of the most sensational news stories in the modern history of Sutter County and the first kidnapping for ransom in the history of the County. Following the return of Mrs. Meeks and failure to apprehend the kidnapers, many sensational stories gained circulation by the rumor route.

Many expressed doubt of the whole story. Ignoring this, the officers went ahead patiently checking every clue and finally reaching what they hope to be a complete solution to the mystery.

FEBRUARY 21, 1939

Virtually conceding their indictment by the Sutter County Grand Jury on Thursday, Robert and Ollen Grimes are making preparations for their defense.

Arrangements for their defense are being made by relatives. Erling C. Norby and Richard Fuidge of Marysville have been retained to defend the two brothers.

FEBRUARY 24th - Kentucky Youths indicted on two counts by the Grand Jury.

Mrs. Ethel Taillefer, proprietor of a Service station and store near Rio Oso testified she had sold a package of cheese to one of the Grimes brothers on the night before Mrs. Meeks was given cheese to eat.

MARCH 3, 1939

GRIMES BROTHERS TRIAL SET FOR APRIL 17

The two plead "not guilty" and Fuidge asks that Ollen be moved to the Yuba County jail which has now been renovated.

APRIL 14, 1939

GRIMES BROTHERS GO ON TRIAL MONDAY IN MEEKS KIDNAPING

(there was extensive coverage of all the testimonies given in the trial. Much of it a repetition of what has already been printed. So we only picked out some of the testimony to put in here.)

APRIL 18, 1939

Mr. Meeks testified "the kidnapers demanded that the sum of \$15,000 to be placed under a bridge on U.S. 99E, forty eight hours after she was kidnaped" or he would "never see her alive again". The \$15,000 demand was made after Mr. Meeks told them he could not raise \$25,000 that they first demanded. The ransom money was never placed under the bridge but Meeks helped prepare a note to place there on the night of September 3rd.

Hewitt claimed he would prove the man who guarded Mrs. Meeks was Robert Grimes and the cheese he gave her was purchased earlier by Ollen.

APRIL 21, 1939

CHEESE LINKS OLLEN GRIMES TO KIDNAP STORY-- State nears end of case against the two brothers.

Mrs Tailefer again testified to the fact that she had sold cheese to one of the brothers and identified Ollen as the one.

Mrs Meeks took the stand and told her story of the kidnaping in a very clear and concise manner. She then identified Robert Grimes as the one who acted as her guard,

APRIL 25th - The Grimes Brothers on the stand denied the kidnaping and told of their trip to Louisville.

Jurors for the trial were:

Henry Rolufs- Pleasant Grove
Mrs. Louise Renne- Nicolaus
L. F. Shalz - Trowbridge
Mrs Dorothy Dean Huntington - Sutter
Mrs Mabel McCready - Yuba City
Mrs Jessie Butler - Yuba City

Mrs. Arlene M. Young- Cranmore
Thomas Johnston - Sutter
Mrs. Gertrude Peck - Meridian
Mrs Ethel Graves - Trowbridge
Parker W. Wilbur - Live Oak
Mrs Marian Adelaide Davidson-Sutter

APRIL 28, 1939

Two Oklahom youths were found guilty of seizing Mrs Meeks in her home on the night of September 1, 1938 and taking her to the hills east of Sheridan and at the same time demanding her husband pay a ransom of \$15,000.

MAY 2, 1939

GRIMES BROTHERS GET LIFE TERMS IN FOLSOM

Kidnappers stolid when sentenced - appeal pushed.

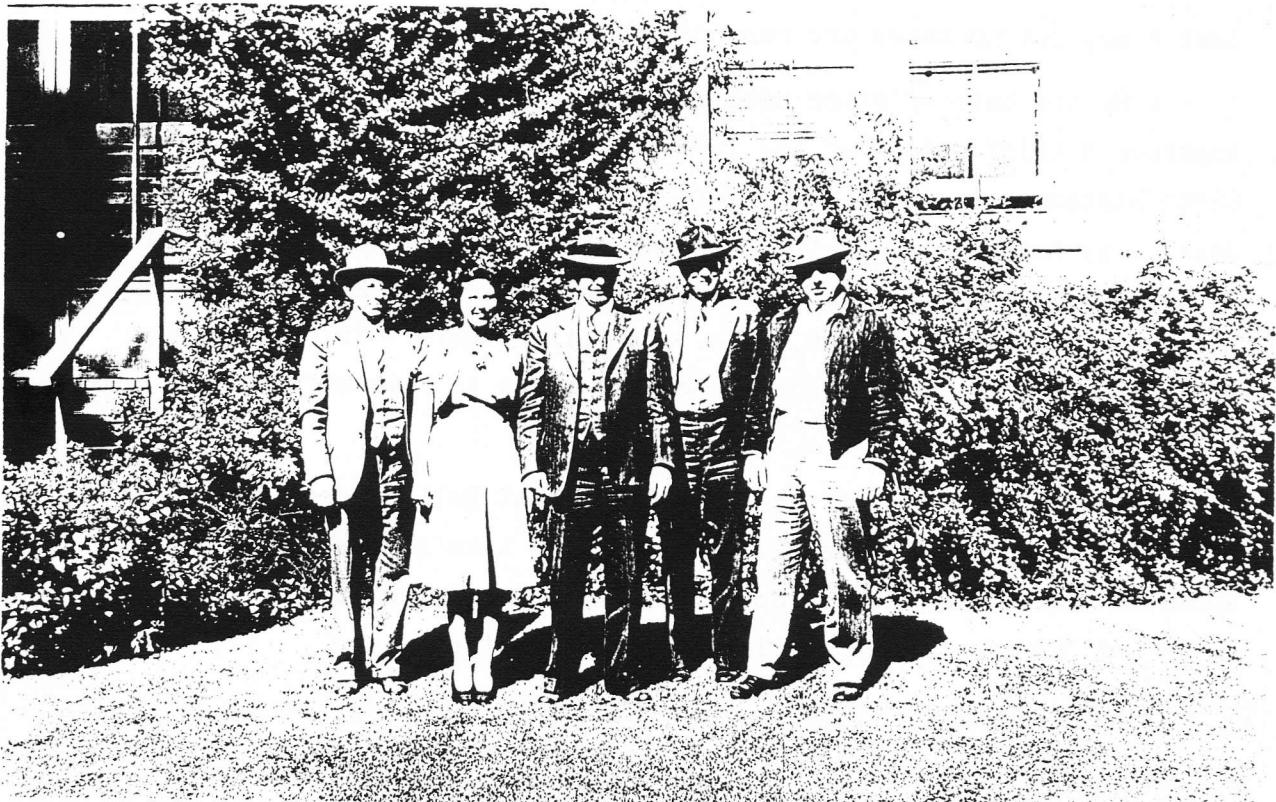
Ollen and Robert Grimes, found guilty by a jury of four men and eight women, in Superior court for kidnaping Mrs. Norman Meeks are in Folsom prison today with the prospect of at least seven years behind bars, under life sentences imposed by Judge Coats yesterday.

MAY 2, 1939

After sentencing, a small group of friends and relatives called at the office of Sheriff Ullrey to see the boys before they left. Shortly before noon they were taken from jail by Sheriff Ullrey and Deputy A. W. Kimerer and started to the trip to Folsom prison.

Later that year on September 15th the following article was in the Independent Farmer "Split Pits," column.

"The past weeks has seen an outbreak of magazine stories concerning the Meeks' kidnapping case. First Sheriff Ullrey comes forth with an elaborate account in one of the detective magazines. Then Deputy Sheriff Dick Wibber has his name signed to a story of the case in another detective "thriller." At least the country will know that Sutter County is a poor place for kidnappers.



LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN?

Some time ago, there appeared on a shelf at the Yuba City, California Branch Genealogical Library a plastic packet. Intrigued, I opened it and glanced at the news clippings, pictures, certificates and other memorabilia. Faces, names, dates,--- here was a small part of someone's family history. But who were they? Who do they belong to? No one has come to claim the packet and I am left to wonder about the rest of the family.

Do any of you know more about these people and who this packet might belong to?

The April 29, 1964, obituary notice for Rollin V. Rowe, 67, lists as survivors - his wife, mother, brothers and sisters, but no children. Although he apparently grew up in Woodland and lived in Sacramento, he was to be buried in the Nicolaus Cemetery. His one sister, Mrs. Alma Smart, lived in Sutter at the time of his death.

According to the obituary, "Rowe was widely known throughout the farming areas of Northern and Central California through his association with the Byron-Jackson division of the Borg-Warner Corporation." An article in The April 1962 issue of the company magazine, "BYJAC NEWS", tells of his retirement party and there are two pictures of him with his associates who were there to honor him. A large photo also was apparently taken at that time, but no names are recorded on it.

With the help of other news clippings and certificates we can piece together a brief sketch of the life of Rollin Verne Rowe. An affidavit of birth states he was born January 14, 1897 in Davis, California. His father, Jesse Gray Rowe was 26 at the time and a pencil note states, (April 9, 1871-his birthdate?). Mother, Etta Maria Wire was 23 and there is another pencil note, (July 25, 1874 - her birthdate?). If this was her birthdate, she was 81 years old when she swore to this affidavit of the birth of her son.

A card style of certificate tells us that Rollin Verne Rowe received his Holy Confirmation, June 22, 1933, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Woodland. Noel Porter, Bishop of Sacramento performed the confirmation which was attested to by Mortimer Chester, Rector.

A news clipping, "Popular Young Couple Married Last Saturday", tells

us of his marriage to Miss Almuth Arens, of Woodland. The ceremony was attended by only the immediate relatives. A later clipping tells how, "Mrs. Rollin Rowe, nee Alumth Arens has been persuaded to at least temporarily continue as one of the instructors in corrective gymnastic courses at the Woodland Sanitarium." (a physical therapist) This article also indicates the marriage was, 'one of the interesting surprises of the early winter season'. We are left to wonder about the date. A large Bible found with this packet has information about births, marriages and deaths but does not list this marriage, nor the death date of Mrs. Almuth Rowe.

Many names and dates are listed in the Bible, beginning with the birth of J. Ping, August 5, 1813, in Barthlemew County, Kentucky. The last birth entry was Kim Stoddard January 2, 1953 and the latest entry of all was the death of Rollin Verne Rowe, 1964. The many dates and names are listed in handwriting that indicates more than one person made entries. Some of the names listed are: Ping, Jones, Arens, Grider, Stoddard, Paine and Susan? Robertson who married J. Ping, August 22, 1841.

More clippings tell of the marriage of T.O. Arens to Kate M. Jones, (Bible gives date of April 18, 1894), and her death in 1933 at the age of 61. Three photos show her grave with her husband and daughter, Almuth, standing by. Another photo apparently taken at the same time shows Mr. Thomas O. Arens and Charles Grider.

The Thursday December 15, 1955, edition of the Sacramento Bee contained an article about Mrs. Edith Grider wife to the late Charles Grider, being interviewed by young Morris Scheiber, an eighth grade student in the Nicolaus Elementary school. She had lived in the same house for 84 years, since she was 2 years old.

A later clipping tells of her death, July 17, 1959. Here we learn that she is the aunt of Almuth Rowe, at whose home she was visiting at the time of her death. She also was a great aunt of Mrs. William Paine, William Stoddard and Thomas Stoddard. Mrs. Grider was a sister to Kate J. Arens and they were the daughters of Thomas Jones.

Other clippings tell of the deaths of other relatives and friends. Also there are some poems and articles on various subjects that apparently interested who ever clipped them.

Three other most interesting items in the packet are: an old birthday greeting card, circa 1920; a notice addressed to Mrs. A. Arens & Family

announcing the "Third Annual Reunion" of some college; (A written note inside explains this may have been for Auntie Cad and Uncle George Arens who attended Napa College Institute later called College of Pacific); a program for the Nicolaus Debating Club, June 4, 1891; a hand written note dated March (39) 1959 and addressed to Mrs. Grider indicating a check to pay for storm damage enclosed. This is interesting because the news clipping of her death indicates she had been visiting at the home of Mrs. Rowe since Thanksgiving of 1958.

The note below I found to be quite interesting:

To J. James P. O. Nicolaus Nicolaus City Balance due \$ If paid when delivered \$68.88	P. O. <u>Nicolaus</u> , State of California, <u>April 5</u> 188 <u>8</u>
	On or before the first day of <u>October</u> after date, <u>we</u> promise to pay to the Wrought Iron Range Company, or order, SIXTY-NINE DOLLARS , value received, without discount or offset, waiving all rights to exemption allowed us by law as to this debt, with interest at six per cent. from date, if not paid when due and presented. This note is given for one "Home Comfort" Range "C," which <u>we have</u> this day purchased from said WROUGHT IRON RANGE COMPANY, to be delivered at <u>our</u> premises within thirty days from this date. This note is to be void only upon the condition that said WROUGHT IRON RANGE COMPANY refuse to deliver the said "Home Comfort" Range, as above specified, and for no other cause whatever.
County of <u>Sutter</u>	<u>T. G. Jones</u>
Witness: <u>J. E. Hamlett</u>	<u>J. E. Hamlett</u>

NOTE: After writing this article I talked to Pat Beadle who apparently donated the packet and Bible to the library. She indicated that a friend of hers, Mr. James Ford came across this material come years ago when the old Grider home burned. Apparently his efforts to locate someone interested in having the Bible was unsuccessful so he gave it to Mrs. Beadle because she was and still is involved in genealogical research.

A brief notice in the Appeal-Democrat, April 3, 1985 states, "A petition has been filed in Sutter County Superior Court to admit to probate the estate of Bruno J. Arens, who died April 4". Under the terms of the petition his sister E.M. Arens would be executrix for the estate. Could these be part of Almuth's family?



Morris Scheiber, an eighth grade student in the Nicolaus Elementary School in Nicolaus, Sutter County, interviewed Mrs. Edith Grider to learn about the history of the community in which he lives. Morris is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Holden Scheiber of Nicolaus. His interview was selected for the weekly by school authorities. Bee Photo

Nicolaus Resident Has Lived In Same House 84 Years

By Morris Scheiber

I called upon the oldest resident of Nicolaus, Mrs. Edith Grider, who has lived in one house 84 years.

While commenting how nice it was to have such a young visitor so early in the morning, Mrs. Grider shut off her television set and brought me a bowl of popcorn.

I told her I had come to obtain first hand information about our town and its oldest resident.

She smiled and said, "I will be glad to tell you what I know."

"How long have you lived in Nicolaus?" I asked.

"I have lived in Nicolaus 86 years, which is all my life. I have lived in this house since I was 2 years old."

"You mean this house?" I asked. "Why it doesn't look that old."

"My husband, Charles, made repairs and kept it in good order until his death in 1938."

"When did your parents come to Nicolaus?"

"My mother came in 1854 and father in 1857. They traveled in covered wagons. My father, Thomas Jones, was a blacksmith. He had his shop right over there where Dr. Gorgette built his home. He made repairs on the big wagons which carried goods for the mines in Grass Valley from the boats which stopped here. He also put shoes on the oxen which pulled the wagons, six oxen to a wagon. There were also stages drawn by horses which stopped at Nicolaus on their way from Sacramento to Grass Valley or Marysville."

"I have read that the first county seat of Sutter County was at Nicolaus" I stated. "Is that true?"

"Yes, it was here in 1850, but only for a short time. Then it was moved to Verona. After a short time it was again moved to Nicolaus where it remained until it was finally established

"What were some of the other buildings in Nicolaus?" I asked.

"The American Hotel was a 16 room building where those who came on the stages could get their dinner. There was a brewery, two stores and several saloons. The school was in a small building on the P. E. Drescher ranch. Then it was moved to a building known as the Miner's Store, a two story building. The store was on the lower floor and the school in the upper story. In the late 50s or early 60s a new schoolhouse was built on the site of the present one, a one room building with about 75 children and one teacher."

"Were there any shooting scrapes such as you see on television or the movies?"

"No, none that I saw, but it was said there was a hanging after a trial on June 13, 1852."

"You know," Mrs. Grider added, "Nicolaus was the place where a ferry was operated to carry goods back and forth from Hock Farm, owned by Captain John A. Sutter. The ferry was operated by Nicolaus Allgier, for whom Nicolaus was named."

"You have had an interesting life here in our little town," I commented. "From the books and newspapers, I see you must read a great deal."

"Oh yes I keep up with current events with my television and The Sacramento Bee."

"My father says you once were secretary of the reclamation district."

"Yes, I was secretary for the reclamation district from 1901 until 1951."

As I rose to go I knew that here was one who could have told me much more from her great fund of knowledge of early days in Nicolaus. As I thanked her and said goodbye I was pleased to have visited such a gracious and respected per-

FOURTH OF JULY MEMORIES

SUTTER BANNER - June 3, 1871

The good Templars of this County have already taken steps for celebrating this glorious day at Camp Bethel. Preparations will be made on an extensive plan to make the day pleasant for all who may attend. Let all, old and young, from far and near determine upon attending at this place. Good speakers will be secured.

SUTTER BANNER - July 8, 1871

Our pioneers celebrate the Fourth of July. The Marysvilliar's had a big time on the fourth. Perhaps more than one half of the people who visited that City of the occasion were from Sutter County. One of the great features of the procession were the Pioneers of whom there were fifty, including J.T. Deckey who rode a 38 year old mule. Others mentioned were: Wm. G. Murphy, G.R. Nightingill, J. Tomb, W.E. Whitesides, Henry Kerns, Old Nick, Dr. C.C. Harrington, Andrew J. Hewitt, James Dow, C.F. Scholl and I.C. McQuaid.

SUTTER BANNER - 1872

Two large ads about where and how to celebrate the Fourth. No. 1 --- "Citizens of Sutter County are cordially invited to participate with citizens of Marysville in celebrating the coming anniversary of American Independence, 1776-1872. The day will be observed in a manner that must be satisfactory to all."

Salutes, ringing of bells, grand morning concert, splendid procession, literary and musical exercises, Bummer's parade, Grand Musical festival at the theatre, display of fireworks, etc.

All the entertainment at the theatre, and else where will be entirely FREE to the public.

Come and join us in the day's festivities, without money and without price. Signed - W.S. Babcock, Secretary
J.R. Badger - Grand Marshall

No. 2 ---Grand Excursion to Sacramento City on the Fourth of July 1872.

Leave Marysville at 8 o'clock am. Returning, leave Sacramento after the fireworks. Fare for round trip - \$2.50 with children going for half price. Limited number of tickets will be sold. Tickets for sale at Lucas & Co., Cigar store, Marysville, and Marcuse Bros, store in Yuba City. The excursion train will consist of eight coaches and a baggage car.

SUTTER BANNER - June 29, 1872

Where to spend the Fourth? ---The difficulty this season is not to find a place to spend the Fourth, but to choose between the varied attractions at different places. The Marysville folks are doing their utmost to get up the most complete celebration ever held in Northern California and the evidences are that they will succeed. The Good Templars are also wide awake, and will celebrate the day in a becoming manner at Camp Bethel, East Buttes. There will be music, oration by W.H. Mills, Grand Worthy, Council of Sacramento, miscellaneous speaking, etc. The school children's picnic near Nicolaus must also be bourne in mind, while farther away Sacramento, Colusa and San Francisco propose to out do all former celebrations. There will be an excursion train to Sacramento, with tickets at one half fare and the citizens of Colusa propose to have 3 or 4 brass bands, and a free dinner - one of the regular old fashioned barbecue, etc, etc. You pay your money and takes your choice.

The Colusa celebration was reported as "by on means an orderly one." One man was beated and cut by his two brothers and an uncle.

Camp Bethel - Had a smaller than gathering because of other attractions. There were only 300 to 500 present. "Everything passed off quietly."

Nothing was reported on the big excursion to Sacramento.

SUTTER BANNER - June 29, 1872

Preparations for the Fourth ----From the Standard, we learn that great preparations are being made by the citizens of Marysville for the coming celebration of the Fourth. An interesting part of the program will be that in which the young ladies participate. The Standard says "Asst. Marshals Cook and Seavy are hard at work fitting up "cars of State" and organizing young ladies who are to participate as representatives of the States of the Union. There will be a meeting at the Presbyterian church on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock when all young ladies and children who are willing to turn out in the cars on the Fourth are requested to attend.